

lattice walls formed by a large number of cells which are channels for fluid; and  
a peripheral wall which covers an outer circumference of said lattice walls, an  
outer peripheral portion of said lattice walls at least located in the vicinity of said  
peripheral wall containing a denser portion of a smaller porosity than that of an inner  
peripheral portion of said lattice walls which is located from a center of the ceramic  
honeycomb structural body to an inside of said outer peripheral portion.


13. (new) The method of preparing the ceramic honeycomb structural body, as claimed in claim 9, wherein said melting-point lower component is applied on the outer peripheral portion of said lattice walls in a manner in which the applying amount gradually increases from the inside to the outside.

**REMARKS**

Early and favorable action on claims 8-10, 12 and 13 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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